

TIVERTON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes: November 28, 2007

1: **Call to order**

Chairman Cecil Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: Laura Epke, Cecil Leonard, Frank Marshall, Ray Medeiros, Deb Pallasch, Stanley Zeramby, Diane Harris, Bob Koohy, Richard Joslin @7:40pm

2: **Approval of minutes**

Motion made by L. Epke, seconded by R. Medeiros, to approve minutes as amended for Nov. 14, 2007. Motion passed with D. Harris abstaining.

3. **Receive comments from invited groups/individuals**

Town Council:

No one present

Arts Committee:

No one present

Budget Committee:

No one present

4. **Public Input**

Other Public Comment:

Stu Hardy:

- Presented proposals to add to the charter the following (see attached):
 1. Historic Preservation Advisory Board
 2. Design Review Commission
- Noted that both of the above are contained in the “Tiverton’s Agenda for Action” section of the most recent Comprehensive Plan as required by the Natural and Cultural Resources section of that document.

Len Wright:

- Recommend term of office for School Committee members not be changed to 2 years from 4 years due to stability 4 years provides to Superintendent as SC is “boss.”
- Given strict budget constraints and the timing of when accurate or more predictable info is received or available, recommend moving date by which school committee must submit its budget to the budget committee until May

Roger Bennis:

- Require by charter that bond issue payments may not be excluded from the calculation of the maximum tax increase, as currently allowed by state if payment exceeds allowable percentage increase.

5. Public Forum publicity

Chairman to write letter to Town Council and School Committee asking that 02/27/08 public forum be announced at their respective meetings. Press releases will be sent to usual news outlets. L. Epke to develop a flyer to advertise the forum. Commission members to tell 4/5 people. Flyer will be posted on Town website. Public access TV to be contacted re: forum. All above publicity efforts to begin after Jan. 1st

6. Preliminary Commission discussion re: input for proposed changes

Commission will keep two lists:

- One for proposed charter recommendations to be presented to the Town Council
- Supplemental suggestions for modification of the current FTM in the event any proposed change fails

A. Motion by F. Marshall, seconded by D. Harris, to add the following proposals to the Commission’s charter proposal working document:

- To facilitate better communication throughout town government and with public, town should have a quarterly “meeting of the minds” including such groups as Town Council, School Committee, Town Administrator, Town Clerk and various boards and commissions.
- All boards and commissions should have yearly briefing from Town Solicitor on laws re: open meetings/open records/minutes, Robert’s rules, etc.

Voting: In Favor- B. Koohey, R. Medieros, F. Marshall, L. Epke, C. Leonard, D. Harris, R. Joslin Against- D. Pallasch, S. Zeramby. Motion passed.

B. Motion by C. Leonard, seconded by D. Pallasch, to add the following proposal to the Commission's charter proposal working document:

- Important to maintain a fail safe when suggesting any alternative to FTM

Voting: In Favor- B. Koohy, R. Medieros, F. Marshall, D. Pallasch, C. Leonard, R. Joslin Against- L. Epke Abstain- D. Harris. Motion passed.

C. Motion by F. Marshall, seconded by D. Harris, to add the following proposal to the Commission's charter proposal working document:

- Collective bargaining contracts (town and school) may not be ratified any sooner that 30 days following the FTM or it's alternative.

Voting: In Favor- B. Koohy, R. Medieros, F. Marshall, L. Epke, C. Leonard, R. Joslin, D. Harris, S. Zeramby Against- D. Pallasch. Motion passed.

D. Motion by D. Harris, seconded by R. Medieros, to add the following proposal to the Commission's charter proposal working document:

- Need to maintain the checks and balances of the current system, which should continue to include the Budget committee

Voting: In Favor- B. Koohy, R. Medieros, F. Marshall, L. Epke, D. Pallasch, R. Joslin, D. Harris, S. Zeramby Against- C. Leonard. Motion passed.

E. Motion by D. Pallasch, seconded by L. Epke, to add the following proposal to the Commission's charter proposal working document:

- Amend 1st proposal to read "Provide alternative to the FTM, with any required quorum not set so low as to allow special interest override.

Voting: In Favor- All. Motion passed.

F. Motion by D. Harris, seconded by R. Medeiros, to reconsider the previous vote to remove from consideration abolishing the requirement for nonpartisan office holders

Voting: In Favor- D. Harris, R. Medieros. Against- B. Koohy, F. Marshall, L. Epke, D. Pallasch, R. Joslin, S. Zeramby, C. Leonard. Motion failed.

7. Addt'l Information on Other Town Methods for Budget Submission

Portsmouth representatives will be attending the 12/12/07 meeting.

8. Meetings schedule

Next meeting dates – Dec 12, 2007 and Jan 9, 2008.

9. Other Business

Flowchart of the current budget process was prepared and distributed by L. Epke.

10. Adjournment

The Commission's November 28, 2007 regular meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Minutes recorded and compiled by Deborah Pallasch, Secretary.